

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 L-03
IO-13 ACDA-07 COME-00 INT-05 CEQ-01 NSF-01
CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06
PRS-01 SP-02 CG-00 DOTE-00 FEA-01 NEA-10 SMI-01
DLOS-09 /110 W
-----231952Z 098166 /43

R 221725Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4479
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, XV, NO, PLOS, CI
SUBJECT: CHILE: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT

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REF: STATE 52416

SUMMARY: IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH TO THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
ON ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT, XII REGION INTENDENTE GENERAL NILO
FLOODY BUXTON REAFFIRMED CHILE'S SOVERIEGN RIGHTS IN THE ANTARCTIC.
THIS WAS FOLLOWED BY A PAPER WHICH OUTLINED CHILE'S HISTORICAL
AND LEGAL INTERESTS THERE. THE NAVY ACTIVELY PROMOTED PUNTA ARENAS

AS AN INTERNATIONAL JUMP-OFF POINT AND RESUPPLY BASE FOR ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS BY OFFERING TAX-FREE IMPORTS AND FLOATING DRY DOCK FACILITIES FOR SHIP REPAIRS. APART FROM THIS, THE SYMPOSIUM WAS NON-CONTROVERSIAL. TWENTY-FIVE PAPERS WERE OFFERED ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS; THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL OF WHICH CALLED FOR AN INTERNATIONAL LICENSING AUTHORITY WITH FREE ACCESS TO ALL BIDDERS FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND A TREATY ON FISHING SIMILAR TO THE CONVENTION ON ANTARCTIC SEALS. THE AUSTRALIAN REPRESENTATIVE OPPOSED THE LICENSING AUTHORITY BUT CALLED FOR A FISHERIES CONVENTION FOR WATERS SOUTH OF 60 DEGREES LATITUDE WITH A REGIONAL FISHERIES CONTROL COMMITTEE. BRAZIL INFORMALLY ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR A MONTH-LONG EXPEDITION IN JANUARY 1978, IN WHICH IT WOULD ESTABLISH A LAND BASE AND CARRY OUT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA. A SECOND EXPEDITION SCHEDULED ONE YEAR LATER WOULD BE DONE JOINTLY WITH ANOTHER COUNTRY, PROBABLY CHILE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT TOOK PLACE IN PUNTA ARENAS, CHILE DURING AAAAAAAAAAAAAAPRIL 12-14, 1977, UNDER THE CO-SPONSORSHIP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND THE PATAGONIAN INSTITUTE. THE SYMPOSIUM OPENED WITH A FORMAL CEREMONY ON APRIL 11 IN WHICH THE XII REGION INTENDENTE, GENERAL NILO FLOODY BUXTON, REAFFIRMED CHILE'S LEGAL AND HISTORIC CLAIMS TO THE ANTARCTIC IN HIS WELCOMING SPEECH. THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT WAS FOLLOWED ON APRIL 12 BY PATAGONIAN INSTITUTE DIRECTOR MATTEO MARTINIC WHO PRESENTED A PAPER OUTLINING CHILE'S HISTORIC CLAIMS TO ANTARCTIC TERRITORY. MARTINIC ALSO ORGANIZED A TOUR OF THE PUNTA ARENAS AREA FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFTERNOON OF APRIL 13 WHICH HIGHLIGHTED LOCAL MONUMENTS TO CHILEAN POLITICIANS AND SCIENTISTS WHO WERE PROMINENT IN CHILEAN ANTARCTIC ACTIVITIES. APART FROM THESE INCIDENTS, SYMPOSIUM CO-DIRECTOR FRANCISCO ORREGO VICUNA MANAGED TO AVOID SENSITIVE POLITICAL ISSUES AND CONSCIENTIOUSLY TRIED TO PREVENT HIS COUNTRYMEN FROM USING THE SYMPOSIUM AS A FORUM FOR PUSING THEIR CLAIMS. HE SUCCEEDED FOR THE MOST PART, ALTHOUGH THE CHILEAN NAVY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE PUNTA ARENAS AS AN INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT BASE AND SPRINGBOARD FOR ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS.

2. TWENTY-FIVE PAPERS WERE PRESENTED ON THE FOLLOWING GENERAL SUBJECTS:

- A) PAST AND FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT;
- B) THE PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AS A BASIS FOR ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT;
- C) DEVELOPMENT OF LIVING RESOURCES IN THE ANTARCTIC;
- D) MINERALS AND HYDROCARBONS IN ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT;
- E) TRANSPORTATION AND TOURISM AS FACTORS IN ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT;

G) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT.

3. MOST OF THE PAPERS WERE PRESENTED BY CHILEAN SCIENTISTS. ANTARCTIC VETERANS WHO WERE PRESENT CLAIMED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING REALLY NEW IN THEIR FINDINGS. IN FACT, THERE WAS A TENDENCY ON THE PART OF SCIENTISTS FROM ALL COUNTRIES REPRESENTED TO GIVE A BROAD OUTLINE OF THEIR COUNTRY'S ACTIVITIES AS A SORT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS GESTURE. THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL PAPER WAS PRESENTED BY GREAT BRITAIN'S DR. BRIAN ROBERS OF THE SCOTT POLAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE. THE PAPER WAS TITLED "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT: THE TEST FOR THE ANTARCTIC TREATY." IN IT DR. ROBERTS CALLED FOR GREAT BRITAIN TO TAKE THE LEAD BY FOREGOING ITS CLAIMS TO ANTARCTICA BY SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL LICENSING AUTHORITY AMONG ANTARCTIC TREATY NATIONS, PLUS A FEW OTHER NATIONS THAT MAY QUALIFY FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND PERMIT FREE ACCESS TO ANTARCTIC MINERAL RESOURCES TO ALL BIDDERS.
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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 IO-13 ACDA-07 COME-00 INT-05
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OF COURSE, THE LICENSING BODY MUST BE GIVEN THE AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES. A LARGE PORTION OF THE PROFITS GAINED WOULD BE PLOWED BACK TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL NATIONS. ROBERTS ALSO CALLED FOR A TREATY ON FISHING SIMILAR TO THE CONVENTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANTARCTIC SEALS. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO CHILE IAN NICHOLSON TOOK EXCEPTION TO ROBERTS' SUGGESTION OF AN INTERNATIONAL LICENSING AUTHORITY FOR MINERALS EXPLOITATION BUT HIMSELF CALLED FOR A FISHERIES CONVENTION BY ALL TREATY POWERS FOR WATERS SOUTH OF 60 DEGREES LATITUDE WITH A REGIONAL FISHERIES CONTROL COMMITTEE. AMBASSADOR NICHOLSON INSISTED THAT FAO NOT BE GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF OVERSEEING THE CONVENTION "BECAUSE OF THE INFLUENCE OF A STRONG GROUP WITH AIMS NOT IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF MOST TREATY MEMBERS."

4. BRAZIL SENT FIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE SYMPOSIUM. THEIR QUESTIONS CONCERNING EXPEDITION COSTS AND PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED SUGGESTED THAT BRAZIL WAS PLANNING AN EXPEDITION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATION, DR. ARISTIDES PINTO COELHO, DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE BRAZILIAN INSTITUTE FOR ANTARCTIC STUDIES (IBEA), TOLD EMBASSY SCIENCE OFFICER ADKINS THAT BRAZIL IS PLANNING AN ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION FOR JANUARY 1978, IN WHICH THEY WILL ESTABLISH A SMALL LAND BASE ON THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA. THE FIRST EXPEDITION WILL BE COMPOSED ENTIRELY OF BRAZILIANS AND WILL LAST ONE MONTH. A SECOND EXPEDITION WILL FOLLOW ONE YEAR LATER IN WHICH ANOTHER COUNTRY, PROBABLY CHILE, WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. DR. PINTO SAID THAT BRAZIL PLACES PRINCIPAL IMPORTANCE ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND THAT BRAZIL'S MAIN INTEREST IS IN THE FOOD AND WATER RESOURCES OF THE ANTARCTICA. ANTARCTIC MINERAL EXPLOITATION FOR BRAZIL, ACCORDING TO DR. PINTO, WOULD BE VERY FAR IN THE FUTURE. SINCE IBEA IS A PRIVATE ORGANIZATION WITH SOME GOVERNMENT FUNDING, DR. PINTO'S REMARKS MAY NOT REFLECT GOB POLICY.

5. ONE PAPER PRESENTED BY CHILEAN NAVAL COMMANDER RUBEN SCHEIHING

NAVARRO WAS TITLED "THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANTARCTIC TRANSPORTATION."
WHILE COVERING THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM THOROUGHLY, COMMANDER
SCHEIHNG TOOK CARE TO POINT OUT IN SOME DETAIL THE NATURAL
ADVANTAGES OF PUNTA ARENAS AS A SUPPLY BASE AND JUMP-OFF POINT
FOR ANTARCTIC EXPEDITIONS. AFTER THIS PRESENTATION, CHILEAN NAVAL
CAPTAIN FRANCISCO GARCIA HUIDOBRO OF THE OFFICE OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
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BUTTON-HOLED SCIENCE OFFICER ADKINS AND ASKED THAT A STRONG PITCH
BE MADE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ABOUT USING PUNTA ARENAS AS A
RESUPPLY BASE FOR PALMER STATION. CAPTAIN GARCIA SAID THAT THE GOC
WILL SOON DECLARE PUNTA ARENAS A TAX-FREE PORT WHICH WOULD FACIL-
ITATE THE IMPORATION AND STORAGE OF SUPPLIES. THE NAVY ALSO HAS
A FLOATING DRY DOCK IN TALCAHUANO THAT IT WOULD BE WILLING TO
MOVE TO PUNTA ARENAS FOR SHIP REPAIRS. PRESUMABLY, TOUTING PUNTA
ARENAS AS A RESUPPLY BASE WAS THE MOTIVE FOR ITS SELECTION AS THE
SYMPOSIUM SITE.

6. GENERAL FLOODY'S AND PROFESSOR MARTINIC'S INTEMPRRATE
ACTIONS MAY HAVE ADDED TO THE DOUBTS OF ALREADY SUSPICIOUS FOREIGN
PARTICIPATNS ABOUT CHILE'S MOTIVES IN SPONSORING THE SYMPOSIUM.
BE THAT AS IT MAY, THERE WERE SINCERE EFFORTS ON THE PART OF
MOST CHILEANS PRESENT TO AVOID THIS TYPE OF CONTROVERSY. THEREFORE,
A MORE GENEROUS INTERPRETATION OF THEIR MOTIVE WOULD BE A DESIRE
TO CLEAN UP THEIR TARNISHED INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, CREATE INFORMED
DOMESTIC INTEREST IN ANTARCTICA, PROMOTE THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
OF PUNTA ARENAS, AND GRAB OFF A BIT OF INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE.
WHAT IS CERTAIN IS THAT THROUGHOUT THE SYMPOSIUM AND FOLLOW-UP
VOYAGE BY SYMPOSIUM GUESTS ABOARD THE NAVAL TRANSPORT AQUILES
TRHOUGH THE STRAITS OFFMAGELLAN, THE BEAGLE CANAL AND CAPE HORN,
THE CHILEANS PROVED TO BE CHARMING, ATTENTIVE HOSTS.
POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOVEREIGNTY, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTIA03309
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770142-1098
Format: TEL
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770428/aaaaayck.tel
Line Count: 260
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 52416
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2720782
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHILE: INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON ANTARCTIC DEVELOPMENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
TAGS: TGEN, PLOS, XV, NO, CI, (BUXTON, NILO FLOODY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c1178ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009